

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 016907/1147



Applicant: Hiroki KANNO et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 09/19/2000
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action, which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document, which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

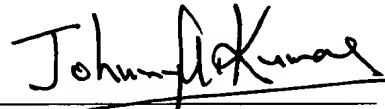
**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Document A1 describes a data embedding technique for bilevel images using an error diffusion method. In this method, the threshold for a current point is determined by values of its neighborhood. An English translation of Document A1 is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). An English language abstract is included on the first page of document A1.

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed document be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 19, 2000
Date

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907/1147		SERIAL NO. Unassigned		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Hiroki KANNO et al.				
				FILING DATE 09/19/2000		GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	A1	KOIDE et al.; "A Data Embedding Method for Bilevel Images Based on the Error Diffusion Method and the Mean Density Approximation Method"; 1996; pp. 7-14.						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								